

agriculture, and the economic activity they generate obviously ripples through the domestic economy.

We need to make sure that our current inland waterway infrastructure is maintained in good condition. Congress has implemented policy changes that provide more funding for the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and adjusted cost shares of the trust fund to more efficiently fund and complete the construction projects. I ask for robust funding to support the use of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund for construction. This is necessary to ensure that the inland waterways modernization, replacement, and rehabilitation construction projects are funded at the level supportable by the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program currently faces a large unmet need in its operations and maintenance account. I have been encouraged that in the last several years, Congress has provided additional funding to help address these backlogs. I request as much funding as possible be provided for these operation and maintenance activities.

The investigations account is also crucial for the inland waterways system. There are currently 15 modernization projects that are waiting to begin construction. It is critically important to complete design of these projects so they can begin construction when the Inland Waterways Trust Fund dollars become available. Failure to have design completed will delay project delivery, ultimately leading to increased total cost of the projects, as well as adding additional time to schedule project completion. I ask that the investigations account be funded at a level to support these projects, given current budgetary constraints.

On the Upper Mississippi River, multiple locks are well beyond their 50-year design life and cannot accommodate more tows, as we have to have the barges break up their tows to get them through smaller locks. So having to decouple the barges significantly slows down traffic on the river and increases costs and emissions harmful, then, to the environment.

I worked with my Upper Mississippi River colleagues here in the Senate and a large, broad stakeholder coalition to get initial authorization for this lock and dam modernization, the Navigation and Ecosystem Restoration Program, signed into law. We have also continued to work on receiving preconstruction engineering design and funding that is provided for in the Navigation and Ecosystem Restoration Program. It is important for that program to receive new start funding so construction on these improvements can start taking place.

Lock and Dam 25, which is a key feature of the navigation and ecosystem program, has received a significant portion of the \$72.5 million appropriated for the navigation and ecosystem program thus far and is ready

to move to construction. That program is a key priority for me and my colleagues, the State of Iowa, the region, and everybody up and down the Mississippi River, and, eventually, the world benefits from that increased efficiency.

We need all modes of transportation to help deliver our inputs, our goods, and commodities both domestically and internationally. I want to see robust navigation on the Mississippi River and other inland waterways flourish.

I look forward to continuing to work with my congressional colleagues and the administration on these important issues as appropriations and infrastructure legislation is prepared and discussed.

I have one other short comment I would like to make on another subject. It will take me about 2 or 3 minutes.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Mr. President, I have spoken many times about the importance of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. It should go without saying that these documents are foundational to our Nation. They were revolutionary texts for the time that laid out our timeless founding ideals, and we still continue to strive toward those ideals as Americans. Unfortunately, it seems this fact can't be taken for granted anymore.

So, on the Fourth of July, National Public Radio continued its tradition of sharing the text of the declaration, but something different happened this year. It began the program with what they call in colleges now a "trigger warning," telling its audience that "the declaration is a document with flaws and deeply ingrained hypocrisies."

Now, instead of highlighting the American ideals that it laid out, NPR decided that the most important thing to note was that it contained outdated language about Native Americans and that its ideals were not yet fully realized when it was written.

I can think of many ways to introduce a reader to this document, but it fundamentally misses the point to focus on the flaws of the authors and signers rather than the ideals it lays out of natural rights endowed to all by our Creator. The people who wrote the declaration were not perfect, just like we aren't perfect today, but the principles they espoused remain true to this day and have changed the course of human history for the better.

We need not ignore the fact that the Founders did not live up to the lofty goals that they set, but it does a great disservice to focus on those flaws while glossing over the fact that our founding principles were truly exceptional in human history. They set us on a path to abolish slavery, provide the justification for women's suffrage, and formed the basis of the civil rights movement.

On July 4, we celebrate our Nation, "conceived in liberty and dedicated to

the proposition that all men are created equal," as Abraham Lincoln so stated. It is imperative that we do not lose sight of our founding principles, which unite all Americans and have been the driving force helping us achieve a more perfect Union.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Arizona.

VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Ms. SINEMA. I ask that all remaining time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge the nomination of Jennifer Ann Abruzzo from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. SINEMA. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 257 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Burr	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Inhofe	Sasse
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Ernst	Moran	Tuberville
Fischer	Murkowski	Wicker

NOT VOTING—2

Braun	Young
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The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The nomination is discharged, and it will be placed on the calendar.

The Senator from Rhode Island.